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Identifying needs and setting priorities in research for vascular interventional radiology

Submission date
01/11/2025

Recruitment status
No longer recruiting

Registration date
26/05/2026

Overall study status
Completed

Last Edited
26/05/2026

Condition category
Circulatory System

[_] Prospectively registered
[_] Protocol
[_] Statistical analysis plan
[_] Results
[_] Individual participant data
[X] Record updated in last year

Plain English summary of protocol

Background and study aims
Vascular Interventional Radiology (VIR) provides minimally invasive alternatives to open surgery. Each year, more than 280,000 interventional radiology procedures are carried out in the UK. Despite this, there is no coordinated national research strategy for VIR.

The INSPIRE-VIR study aims to bring together healthcare professionals, patients, carers, and other stakeholders to identify and agree the most important unanswered research questions in VIR. The study will also assess how feasible these top research priorities are to carry out in practice.

Who can participate?
(a) UK-based interventional radiologists (consultants and trainees with at least 3 years' experience)
(b) UK-based interventional radiology nurses and allied health professionals with at least 3 years' experience
(c) Patients and carers with significant experience of VIR procedures

What does the study involve?
The study has two parts:
The first part is a Delphi survey – an online questionnaire completed over three rounds (each open for three weeks). You will be asked to suggest, rate, and re-rate research priorities in VIR. All participants will take part in this stage. Surveys are anonymous, and reminder emails will be sent weekly.

The second part is a Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis (MCDA) workshop – a group session where the top twenty research questions are assessed for urgency, feasibility, impact, and patient-centredness.

Only the smaller "core group" of about 15 participants (including professionals and patients /carers) will take part in this workshop.

What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?
Benefits: By taking part, participants will contribute to shaping the future research agenda in VIR. This may improve care, highlight gaps in knowledge, and ensure that research reflects real-world needs. Patients and carers will bring valuable lived experience, ensuring that research questions reflect what matters most to them.

Risks: There are no direct risks to taking part. The main inconvenience may be the time commitment of completing surveys or attending the workshop.

Where is the study run from?
The study is coordinated by the University of Plymouth, UK, in collaboration with the British Society of Interventional Radiology (BSIR).

When is the study starting and how long is it expected to run for?
November 2025 to June 2026. The Delphi surveys will run over approximately four months. The final MCDA workshop will take place shortly after. The whole study is expected to be completed within about one year.

Who is funding the study?
The British Society for Interventional Radiology (BSIR).

Who is the main contact?
Dr Blair Graham (University of Plymouth), blair.graham@plymouth.ac.uk

Contact information

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Public, Scientific, Principal investigator

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Additional identifiers

Protocol serial number
University of Plymouth PEOS 6823

Study information

Scientific Title
Identifying needs and setting priorities in research for vascular interventional radiology (The INSPIRE- VIR Study)

Acronym
INSPIRE-VIR

Study objectives
1. To identify, determine the importance, and achieve expert consensus on the most important unanswered research priorities in VIR.

2. To assess the real-world deliverability of the top twenty research priorities.

Ethics approval required
Ethics approval required

Ethics approval(s)

Submitted 01/11/2025, Faculty of Health Research Ethics and Integrity Committee (University of Plymouth, Plymouth, PL4 8AA, United Kingdom; +44 (0)7538553513; fohethics@plymouth.ac.uk), ref: 6823

Primary study design
Observational

Study design
Two-part non-interventional consensus study consisting of a three-round Delphi study to generate research priorities, and Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis to determine real-world deliverability

Study type(s)
Other

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied
Research priorities in vascular interventional radiology

Interventions
A three-round modified Delphi survey will recruit a national convenience sample of VIR stakeholders (n ≈60). A smaller core participant group (n≈15) will contribute throughout. Core group members will be purposively sampled and include the multidisciplinary team (e.g., vascular surgeons and IR nurses) and lay experts with lived experience, alongside interventional radiologists. Round 1 will generate priorities; rounds 2 and 3 will achieve consensus, with feedback to participants between rounds.

Multi-criteria decision analysis (MCDA) will then assess urgency, feasibility, potential impact, and patient-centredness of each of the top twenty priorities, indicating real world need, deliverability, and effectiveness.

Intervention Type
Other

Primary outcome(s)
Research priorities for vascular interventional radiology ranked by perceived importance and group consensus using Delphi questionnaires at baseline, 4 weeks, and 8 weeks.

Key secondary outcome(s)
Deliverability of the top 20 research priorities is assessed using multiple criteria agreement ratings at 10–12 weeks.

Completion date
30/06/2026

Eligibility

Key inclusion criteria
1. UK-based IR consultants/residents with > 3 years’ experience
2. UK-based IR nurses / allied professionals with >3 years’ experience

Participant type(s)
Health professional

Healthy volunteers allowed
No

Age group
Mixed

Lower age limit
18 Years

Upper age limit
100 Years

Sex
All

Total final enrolment
0

Key exclusion criteria
1. Health professionals practising outside the UK
2. Health professionals without a substantive IR role
3. Recent commercial conflicts of interest (e.g., payments within the past 12 months)

Date of first enrolment
01/12/2025

Date of final enrolment
30/06/2026

Locations

Countries of recruitment
United Kingdom

England

Study participating centre
University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust
Derriford Hospital
Derriford Road
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Study participating centre
University of Plymouth
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Sponsor information

Organisation
University of Plymouth

ROR
https://ror.org/008n7pv89

Funder(s)

Funder type
Research organisation

Funder Name
British Society of Interventional radiology

Alternative Name(s)
BSIR

Funding Body Type
Private sector organisation

Funding Body Subtype
Associations and societies (private and public)

Location
United Kingdom

Results and Publications

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan
The datasets generated during and/or analysed during the current study are/will be available upon request from Dr Blair Graham, blair.graham@plymouth.ac.uk.

Anonymised aggregate results will be presented in publications and will be shared upon reasonable request in accordance with institutional data policies.

The type of data that will be shared: A participant-level consensus dataset will be provided upon request. This will be fully anonymised and will extend to excluding data points that may inadvertently or indirectly identify participants, such as demographic details.

Timing for availability: Usually within 20 working days.

Whether consent from participants was required and obtained: Informed study consent will be obtained at the outset, prior to completion of the first survey.

Comments on data anonymization: Data will be anonymised prior to analysis. Per-item and free-text responses will be shared only in
anonymised form.

Any ethical or legal restrictions: None anticipated. Please note that ethical approval is pending (University of Plymouth Faculty of Health Research Ethics & Integrity Committee Ref 6823).

Any additional comments: No.

IPD sharing plan summary

Available on request

Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
Participant information sheet	version 1	14/10/2025	04/11/2025	No	Yes